

Needham HRC Minutes

January 16, 2014

Attending: Marlene Schultz, Cynthia Ganung, Nathan Rosin, Ashok Mehta, John Schlittler, Mike Vaughn, Olly Harari

Recorder: Olly Harari

Minutes of the December 19, 2013 meeting were approved.

Old Business

Marlene visited the Needham Volunteer Fair at The Center at The Heights and the committee discussed the possibility of participating in the future. Mike suggested that to increase visibility and membership we can hand out our brochures at town meetings. Marlene mentioned that we can put our information in the town newcomer's packet.

Marlene reported about the library Created Equal grant events: the organizer would like at least one HRC member to help with each event. Ashok is going to be on the panel discussion of one of the events and it seems like we can meet this request. Volunteers who will help during the discussions are:

March 27, 7 PM Mike Vaughn

March 30, 2 PM Marlene Schultz

April 12 Ashok Mehta (depending upon time of event)

Ashok suggested that we put more information on our website and create an archive with related information on Human Rights. We discussed taking a group picture for the website.

NHRC is helping MLK event with organizing food donations. A high school student is doing a video for MLK day and they interviewed Nathan as a representative of our committee. Nathan reported that the taping went very well. We will have our display at MLK event with a sign up sheet.

New Business

For a spring event, Ashok recommended inviting Caitrin Lynch from Olin College to speak about the rights of senior citizens. Marlene suggested we co-sponsor the event with the Council on Aging. John said that it is a good target group and the committee members agreed with him. Marlene will call Jamie Gutner from the Council on Aging to see if they are interested.

Complaint: Marlene presented a complaint by an individual who felt that the Council on Aging violated his freedom of speech in a writing group. Marlene talked with the Council

on Aging's director, Jamie Gutner, their social worker, and John Schlittler. After careful deliberation it was thought that no rights were violated. Marlene will send a letter to the individual, notifying him about the committee's conclusion and explaining that a group at the Center at the Heights has a right to set and enforce their guidelines.

The individual has sent a package to Marlene with his sample writings and John took it to be kept at the Needham Police station.

Cynthia reported that the Needham Immigration Task Force is having an evening of meeting and socializing with new immigrants at the library on January 23rd.

Nathan reported about incidents of possible human rights violations at the Needham High School, which resulted in the Principal addressing the school by video. John will investigate the subject.

Meeting Recorders:

Feb. 27 Nathan

March 20 Ashok

Next meeting Feb. 27.